

WRESTLING FORUM

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VOLUME III

ISSUE 9

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OFF AND RUNNING AGAIN

Greetings from the heartland of America and yet another highly entertaining episode in the trials and tribulations of a wrestling newsletter editor. A Big welcome to all the new readers and for those of your returning, thank you.

I expected there to be a mailbox full of hate mail over last issue and the announced price increase. There were a couple of mild protests, but nothing too serious. One letter questioned (in a nice way) how I could justify a full 25¢ raise in price when the postal rates only went up by 3¢ (6¢ for the Forum). Well, that six cents was only part of the reason for the increase. Since we began the bulletin, there has never really been an increase in price. After about six months, we stopped giving a price break for those who subscribed for more than three months, but that was as close as we came. In the meantime, we added eight pages. We reduce copy so that we can fit more into the space allowed. Even when the cost of paper went up, we ate the increase. Toner for the copier has gone from \$21.95 per bottle to \$27.95 per bottle. We didn't mention that and didn't increase the price when that happened. Fuser oil (another chemical needed to produce the finished copy) also went up. What it comes down to is this: The price increase was a long time coming and I just dreaded doing it. When it became unfeasable to continue doing the bulletin for \$1.25 per issue, we either had to raise the price (25¢ was a nice round number and easy to multiply by) or quit publishing. Since I enjoy doing the bulletin too much to stop, the only other choice was raising the price. Face it folks, I'm not doing this to get rich...but I do want to cover expenses and have a little left over, okay?

So, the price increase takes effect next issue. Let me make this as clear as I can. If you renew before the 30th, you still get the forum at the old rate of \$1.25 per issue (six months maximum). After that, it's \$1.50 per issue again, with a six months maximum (\$18.00). You can still subscribe for any amount in between one and twelve issues. If you are not due for renewal, your subscription will run for whatever you originally bought. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to either write or call. I'm VERY slow responding to letters, so a call might be the best. The number is (309) 289-2662 and I work from about 2:30 - 11:30 pm MY TIME. I'm never in bed before 1 am my time so it is okay to call after 11:30.

And to make this official, we still publish on the 15th and 30th of each month with the mailing taking place the following day. I think that should satisfy the post office people.

A lot of you have been asking about back issues. Yep, they are available and we have every single one we've ever done. They're \$1.50 each. If you want a list with a capsule summary of what's in each one, I should have that done by the time you get this, so just send a SASE for the list. The yearbook is still available (I have four copies left) at a cost of \$11.00 which includes 1st class handling.

Out of room already. One other quick reminder. be sure to vote in the Wrestling Barometer (see last issue). Response is falling again and it's popular enough (at least people tell me they like reading it) that I'd like to see it continue. We do need your support though to keep it alive. Send those entries to Jeff Siegel, Box 5461, Evanston, IL 60204 for what you think is hot and what you think isn't.

Lot's of news and stuff to cover, so without any further ado...

THIRD ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM 128 MAN ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT

round 1 part 1
results

Here are the results of the first round, part 1 of the tournament. We made a typographical error in the pairings in the first round by listing Barry Orton as a competitor. It should have read Bob Orton. However, since it was listed as Barry, it will remain that way. Because of the rule that says "if a wrestler in real life is injured or in any way unable to compete, he shall forfeit his WF tournament match", Bret Hart will receive a bye over Barry O in the first round as Barry is busy these days, serving out a manslaughter charge in an Arizona prison. On to the results:

- Ted DiBiase bankrolled Tom Pritchard 31-1.
- Don Muraco rocked Marty Janetty 23-9.
- Stan Hansen embarrassed Honky tonk Man 26-4 (2 draws).
- Chris Adams saved face against Yoshiaki Fujiwara 18-12 (2).
- Shawn Michaels rolled past Bill Dundee 20-11 (1).
- Al Perez bored Larry Zbyszko 16-14 (2).
- Dick Murdoch downed Dick Slater 26-6.
- Tully Blanchard rode over Matt Borne 31-1.
- Mike Rotundo outclassed Wendall Cooley 26-3. (3)
- Masa Saito winded Ultimate Warrior 28-3 (1).
- Nobuhiku Takada surprised Bobby Fulton 23-9.
- Islander Tama flew past Kevin Kelly 21-11.
- Greg Valentine beat Adrian Adonis 25-4 (3).
- Arn Anderson defeated Super Strong Machine 26-6.
- Kazuo Yamazaki 13, Shiro Koshinaka 11 with 7 draws eliminates both wrestlers
- Tito Santana maneuvered past Sam Houston 18-14.
- Nord the Barbarian tore up Dennis Condrey 19-12 (1).
- Owen Hart shutout Paul Diamond 32-0.
- Bruiser Brody stomped Stan Lane 26-6.
- Kuniaki Kobayshi got by Dino Bravo 26-4 (2).
- One Man Gang splashed Butch Reed 20-7 (5).
- Jumbo Tsuruta dumped Ivan Koloff 20-11 (1).
- Pat Tanaka over Islander Haku 21-9 (2).
- Hulk Hogan bombed Masaharu Funiaki 22-7 (2).
- Bret Hart over Barry o by forfeit.
- Akira Maeda kicked El Hijo del Santo 26-3 (2).
- Tom Zenk slipped by Kevin Von Erich 20-11 (1).
- Tiger Mask took care of Chris Benoit 27-5.
- Terry Taylor manhandled Brady Boone 29-3.
- Jim Duggan eased by Hiro Saito 16-13 (3).
- Bubba Rogers over Buzz Sawyer by Forfeit.
- Barry Windham shutout Bruce Hart 32-0.

TOURNEYFACTS....the two 32-0 shutouts were the biggest margins of victory in tournament history...this round also set the record for most votes cast in any single round....Bruiser Brody got his 9th win in tournament action which ties him for third on the all time list...Kazuo Yamazaki was the first seed to be eliminated in this tournament...this marks the earliest round a seed has ever been eliminated...A new stat we call LOW LOSS WINS (where a wrestler is able to hold his opponent to 10% or less of the votes cast)...Windham and Blanchard each recorded their third LOW LOSS WIN each....only Flair is ahead of them in that category with an amazing seven LLW....Wendall Cooley and Dick Slater each suffered first round losses again for the third straight year giving both of them lifetime records of 0-3....With your votes this time, also vote as to which of the following you'd like to see...1)Tag Team Tournament, 2)Old Timers tournament, 3)Old Timers Tag Team Tournament, or 4) Ladies tournament.....Pairings for the second part of round one are on the following page.

ROUND ONE
part 2
pairings

Randy Savage (3) vs HIRO HASE	Jimmy Garvin vs MIKE MILLER
LEX LUGER vs Dynamite Kid	Rick Martel (30) vs Shawn Simpson
EDDIE GILBERT (19) vs Denny Brown	DAVID SHULTZ VS JIM NEIDHART
WSTY RHODES vs Brian Pillman	Masa Fuchi vs Genricho Tenryu
Riki Choshu (11) vs TNT	Brutus Beefcake vs Manny Fernandez
Bad News Allen/Brown vs HERCULES	Shinichi nakano vs ROAD WARRIOR HAWK (22)
Brad Armstrong (27) vs RIP ROGERS	JASON THE TERRIBLE VS Dutch Mantell
Antonio Inoki vs ICEMAN PARSONS	GAMMA SINGH vs Tatsumi Fujinami (6)
JAKE ROBERTS vs Mando Guerrero	YOSHIKAKI YATSU vs Jeff Jarrett
Greg Gagne vs ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL	Hector Guerrero vs BAM BAM BIGELOW (26)
Steve Williams (23) vs ROBERT FULLER	Ricky Morton vs Keichi Mutoh
RICK RUDE vs Ronnie Garvin	AL MADRIL vs Bobby Eaton (10)
CURT HENNIG (15) vs Koko B Ware	STING vs Tommy Rogers
Tim Horner vs KEIJI YAMADA	Davey Boy Smith vs TERRY GORDY (18)
Jerry Lawler (24) vs JIMMY JACK FUNK	Brian Adias vs RICK STEINER
RIP OLIVER VS Michael Hayes	Steve Simpson vs RIC FLAIR (2)

To vote in the tournament....Pick the wrestler that you think would win these mythical matchups....the Wrestlers whose names are in capital letters are playing the heel role in these matches...seeded wrestlers are noted by the seed number in parenthesis...to save time, you can just list the winning wrestler's last name on a postcard instead of saying so and so beat so and so...send your votes to:

SEAN GRANDE

10 WATERSIDE Plaza #26-A

New York, NY 10010

NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS...

Deadline for all votes will be 6/10. Be sure to cast your vote for the other mythical tournament (which of the four you'd like to see).

Winners and pairings for round two will be in V3I11 (June 15th issue).

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Quite a bit of news coming out of here really, but the top story has to be Hell freezing over. A lot of things have happened or are happening, that I never thought we'd see again. The AWA is making yet another attempt to rise from the ashes and become a power again.

First, I have a correction to make from last issue. I had said that the AWA had started booking shows in bars & nightspots. WRONG! Some of the guys who had been working parttime may have been booked into bars and the like, but not under the AWA banner. I was given to understand (in no uncertain terms) that the AWA has not and never will book a show in a bar. Verne does not believe that a show in a bar would be conducive for a family environment. There may be money to be made this way, but the AWA will pass.

That doesn't stop them from booking some other strange places though. They were scheduled for a spot show in Wyoming, IL a town of about 1600 30 miles from here on Friday the 13th (which should have been an omen in itself), but they cancelled the show. While trying to find out where the show was going to be I had to end up calling the AWA offices. I was told it was scheduled for a place called Memorial gardens. Now for five years, I was an exterminator and I made at least a weekly (if not twice a week) visit to

Wyoming, IL

The town isn't big enough to have too many places to hold a show and i sure never heard of Memorial Gardens being a building in town. I called a bar owner who had been one of my customers and asked him if he knew where it was. "Outside of town about five miles," he said. "Who's funeral are you goin' to?" Memorial Gardens is the Catholic cemetery in Wyoming!

To make a long story short (too late for that), the girl in the office had made a mistake. Memorial Gardens is a building in Canada where they had had a show earlier in the week. They were actually booked at what used to be an old opera house. You make up your own jokes about the cemetery being a better place to have a show...

They've really been hyping the ESPN show that is being taped tonight (the 14th) in Las Vegas. Among the announced matches so far are Hennig-Lawler for the AWA title (which Jerry Lawler won in Memphis...see the Memphis report), and a tag team title match between Diamond and Tanaka and Mando and Chavo Guerrero. Add that to a scheduled match between the midnight Rockers and Riki Choshu and Masa Saito and you've got the makings of a hot TV show. Choshu will not have an extended stay, but Saito is supposedly in for a while.

Meanwhile, the AWA calendar is looking pretty good over the next month or so. They've got cards scheduled throughout the midwest and even the east coast (where no doubt they will get some help from Angelo Savoldi's ICW). I've also been told they will be returning to northern California in the next few weeks. Most of the cards are being held in High school gyms, and there's absolutely nothing wrong with that at all. A small place like that makes the show more intimate and it makes the crowd seem more noisy from the echo. Wrestlers work harder when the heat is up, and the harder they work the more heat. It's a nice circle where everyone wins.

There is even more headway being made. I'm told that starting this weekend, the AWA will be taking over some TV slots from both the NWA and WWF in local markets. In fact, one report has the AWA replacing the NWA in the NWA's own backyard and the Charlotte market. The network is growing once again, so Verne must have hired somebody that knows what they're doing. I've heard no names as to new personnel, but you know Verne couldn't be making this sort of progress with his outdated ideas of sales and marketing.

Some more in the way of new arrivals...Manny Fernandez will start at the Las Vegas taping as will quite a few of the Sharkey guys. It would appear that the entire crew that we worked with in Chicago (Terminators Johnny Love, Ricky Rice, Derrick Dukes, and Larry Cameron) will be signed for some shows as well. Hey! You're missing the manager in the putrid green sports jacket!

Departures include the Nasty Boys who were unceremoniously fired this past week. No word on why. The Midnight Rockers might be the next to go unless they shape up their act fast. These two have taken to making fools of themselves in public and Verne is tiring of it quickly. He'll let it be known that he'll sacrifice top talent if the talent is only going to prove to be an embarrassment to him. Is this the same Verne Gagne we've come to know and dislike over the past few years?

Look for another medium sized name to start soon as well. Apparently a lot of the guys being victims of economic cuts in the NWA and WWF are willing to give the AWA a shot. Why not? With the AWA booking talent into some of the smaller regional promotions, they get assured some work plus national exposure on ESPN. By the way, the contract with ESPN states that the weekly time is Fridays at 11:30 pm eastern time. Why it isn't on then is anybody's guess, but ESPN appears to be at fault as the AWA claims they are sending the tapes on a regular basis.

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WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

This edition of WAPT comes from a fan who wishes to be known only as "Autograph Hound".

ONE MAN GANG

Saw him at the Philadelphia Airport. Did sign. Cordial, but aloof. I mentioned bulletins and he clammed right up.

JIM CROCKETT

He does sign autographs. No one recognized him but me. Very pleasant, but also very businesslike.

TONY SHIAVONE

Walks like he has a stick up his you know wha. Had to ask three different times to get an autograph. Very cocky. I said that I enjoyed his work and only got a muttered, "thanks". No conversation at all.

KENDALL WINDHAM

Did sign but not very friendly. He was reading a paperback book when I approached him. I asked him if Brad (Armstrong) was still out of action and he asked "Brad who?". I asked if he and Italian Stallion would continue to fill dates for the Lightning Express and he said, "I just go and wrestle wherever they tell me."

TOMMY ROGERS

The nicest guy I've ever met in wrestling. Asked me where I was from, where I was going, etc. I told him what a good job he did at the Clash and he said, "Thanks, Champ".

BOBBY FULTON

A little aloof, but friendly. I asked him to personalize the autograph and he said his partner (rogers) already did. "we're the Fantastics, you know".

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

one of the first rules of wrestling is this: Anytime a cake appears on TV for any sort of an occasion during a wrestling broadcast, someone's face is going in it. Now I know this is hardly a lead story, but it does revolve around one of the top stories here so...

It all started with the Fantastics capturing the US tag team titles from the Midnight Express. The title change took place just as we went to press last time and we had no details on the change. I can now tell you this: The match itself went about 40 minutes total. They showed the last 10 minutes or so on TBS. Bobby Fulton was getting the holy snot beat out of him during the last part with Stan and Bobby sharing the chores of doing the beating. The referee kept checking on Fulton's condition but Tommy Rogers kept pleading with him to let the match continue. Fulton couldn't get the tag he needed and as it turned out, he didn't need to. During a Jim Cornette temper tantrum about the ref not stopping the match, Rogers went to the top turnbuckle and came off dropkicking Bobby Eaton in the process. Fulton then caught him with his own momentum and rolled him up for the pin.

Eaton wasn't the legal man in the ring, so Cornette filed a protest. The first anniversary of the Express holding the US titles was upcoming and Jim was confident that Jim Crockett would rule in his favor, so he went to the trouble of having his mother bake a cake for the occasion. During the interview segment with the cake, David Crockett came out and told Jim that the decision stayed the same and that the Fantastics were indeed the champs. At that point, Tommy and Bobby ran in and shoved Cornette's face in the cake. Funny? I guess. The marks probably enjoyed it. Old and overdone (the skit, not the cake)? That too.

The only redeeming things about the skit that I could see were the one liners by Cornette (when Lane asked where the girls were, Cornette said that they were having car problems and besides, now they were half price) and the way he kept flustering David Crockett. David seems to have enough problems remembering his lines as it is without Cornette and his running patter. Davey was shook this time, major league, and it almost looked like Cornette was having fun making him goof up. But we all know no one would pick on the owner's brother, now don't we.

In other news, Dusty Rhodes has been "reinstated" from his suspension effective immediately. Now there's two things that could have brought this one about. First, Dusty could have realized that the Midnight Rider character just wasn't going over the way he thought it should and he elected to abort the angle before it got to the point of losing his popularity among the marks. That sounds too rational for Dusty. The other possibility is that he realized that the 120 day suspension would be taking him past the Bash shows with him wearing the Midnight Rider get-up including coat and mask. Maybe he remembered Chicago last year with the 120 degree building and just decided that losing 20 pounds a night wasn't for him. THAT sound more like the Dusty we've come to know and love.

This Friday night, they are having a tournament in Houston to fill the vacant US Heavyweight title that Dusty had to give up with his suspension. We should have a report either later on here, or at least by the Miscellaneous stuff section. My guess at this point would be Barry Windham so that all four horsemen can have a belt. We'll see.

Tommy Rich, move over! There's someone who is seriously challenging you for the most unintelligible interviews in wrestling. Steve Williams came out last week and did an interview that still has me shaking my head. The following is a transcript in case you missed it, or in case you'd like to try deciphering it yourself:

"You know, Dave Crockett, you wake up in the morning. You have

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your cup of coffee. You walk out to the mailbox. You reach deep down inside. You know you're lookin' for that special envelope. And you people know what I'm talkin' about (No, Steve, at this point we have no idea what you're talkin' about). There was no envelope. So Ric Flair, Barry Windham and the four horsemen. You talk a big talk. There's the squared circle. I know what it takes to be a champion. Barry Windham, a lot of people thought I was jumpin' over the track. Well it looks like the turn, table has turned. And all over the world, Japan, United States, they all know I can get the job done. I know how hard it is to be a world heavyweight champion. I know what it takes. I know what kind of training. So Ric Flair, before you step in that ring, do a lot of thinkin'. A lot of soul searchin'. Because you're not getting in this ring with an ordinary man. And I'm serious, Ric Flair. I ain't shakin' nobody's hand and I ain't kissin' no babies. Because when I get in that ring, I mean business. That's the only thing I know, David. You know you got all these people workin' around here. I'm gonna straighten out a lot of things. And every man in this business, will feel the stampede!"

What DID that man say?

Crude joke of the month (why do I always pick on the biggest and meanest guys to joke about?): Did you hear that Steve Williams' wife/girlfriend has found a new form of birth control? She gives him a stick of gum before they go to bed. Think about it.

Other things...Ric Flair took some time off due to a bout with what was called the flu. I understand he did work at least one match with a fairly high temperature, and if it's anything like what hit our family, that is more than admirable. Total time off amounted to about a week or so and he'll be back to work already.

Crockett lost his New York arena. The folks at the Nassau Coliseum in Long Island have decided to start renting to Titan exclusively again. When Crockett booked his first show there back in November, they did great, but interest has waned to the point of drawing less than what Titan averaged without Mr. Hogan on the card. Sean Grande told us all when they first went there that it wasn't a good location because there's really no way to get there. Mass transit doesn't go directly there from New York City, so getting there took some effort. Unless there was a really hot card, most people probably wouldn't go to the effort. That's exactly what happened. The Meadowlands would be a better choice, but for now, Crockett will just simply pull out of the New York market and regroup before trying another assault.

In the "Let's confuse the Fans" department, the morning TV spot on Saturdays has been taken over by NWA Pro Wrestling and it's running a few weeks behind. Last weekend they showed a match with Barry and Lex successfully defending the tag team titles.

Speaking of Barry, has this man had a complete personality transplant or what? His first heel interview was tremendous! One part of an interview that goes unnoticed a lot is the wrestler's facial expressions during it. Barry's face was the picture of arrogance and disdain. This should be one of the most successful turns in recent memory.

I'll be having the opportunity to see the NWA in person again soon and a report will naturally be given here. They come to the Quad Cities (Davenport, IA) on the 28th with a "B" team line up...Roadies vs Stooges in a cage, Rotundo vs Sting, Perez vs Nikita, and the one I bought MY tickets for, Sheeps vs Ricky Santana and Bugsy McGraw. Last time the Roadies appeared in Davenport was nearly four years ago for the AWA and they sold out the arena (5100 seats). Some of you may remember the story in Pro Wrestling Illustrated about Kelly being three months old and on my lap in the front row for that one. My how time flies!

Someone once said, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet". Shakespeare to be exact. With apologies, "if you call a pile of dung a rose, it still stinks". Definitely Gallagher. The next Clash of Champions (dubbed Miami Mayhem) will be on June 8 at 8 pm eastern. This is a foray into Prime time TBS, and even though it is being called the Clash of Champions, don't count on it being anywhere near as good. The Road Warriors, Lex Luger and Ric Flair will be conspicuous by their absence on this one. I think the main event is going to be Dusty and Doc against Tully and Arn. Their logic behind this is something to the effect that they "gave away too much good stuff" on the Clash on 3/27. Gee...I thought the whole idea of that show was to destroy Wrestlingmania at any cost. Anyway, this clash will be okay, I guess, but it will be nothing more than the Sunday NWA Main Event show in prime time.

Word just in from Houston...Barry Windham is the new US champion having defeated Nikita Koloff in the final round of the tournament. Other notes of importance from the card (complete results in results section)....The Midnight Rider and Dusty actually did appear together in the ring for Rider's first match against Barry. Doing the honors under the hood was the Italian Stallion.. Larry Zbyszko was supposed to be in the tourny, but for some reason he wasn't and opened the card with a squash match with a local jobber.

Here's why the Midnight Rider angle was abandoned: Most of the wrestlers finally confronted Dusty and Jim Crockett and told them their feelings about 1) it wasn't going over and 2) they were tired of Dusty hogging the spotlight. I guess since they've aborted the angle I can tell you now that they were planning on having the Rider win the NWA title from Flair at one of the Bash shows, but the NWA would refuse to give him the belt unless he revealed who he was under the mask. If this sounds familiar, it's because Dusty ran the exact same angle in Florida about four years ago.

Trouble in paradise. There seems to be yet another "cash flow problem" here and Crockett is cutting corners every which way. One wrestler stormed into his office and demanded the money that jim owed him and Jim told him he wasn't able to pay right now. Because of these problems with money, there should be a major amount of layoffs so if you hear Dusty's name brought up quite a bit on interviews here in the next couple weeks you'll know it's only from people vying for their job security.

Starting June 26, the NWA will begin a major promotion in the Houston market. They will have a two hour block on TV and it will be called NWA Wrestling with Paul Boesch. The first hour will be the NWA syndicated show and the second hour will be hosted by Paul Boesch and feature matches from Houston. Ahhh, just like the good old days.

The Great American Bash this year will run from the last week in June through the first week in August. I'm sure Chicago will be included in the list of cities (it would appear that something like 35-40 cities will be on the tour this year), but there is no way in hell you're going to get me into the UIC Pavilion after the fiasco last year. You wanna talk air conditioned Rosemont Horizon, then maybe. But a five hour drive just to watch people around you sweat is not my idea of fun at the old arena.

Crockett is also instituting a policy where wrestlers will be getting some time off. They will be working three weeks out of the month instead of having a couple of days off here and there.

Triple tower of doom that was used in the World Class Texas stadium show is supposed to make its NWA debut in Baltimore during the Bashes. War Games will be scheduled in several other cities as the gimmick match that they hope will be a drawing card. What ever happened to good old fashioned wrestling as the drawing card?

This weekend, I've taken four calls, one from one who should know, about a rumor that is gaining a bunch of momentum. It concerns Crockett and his financial problems again. Apparently, as the story goes, Ted Turner has either approached or been approached about buying the nWA from jim Crockett. I've been old that if he does, the basic format won't change all that much since Ted doesn't know the wrestling business. But you have to wonder if Ted would continue to listen to Dusty and his asinine excuses for why he continues to push himself when he doesn't draw. Ted owns a baseball team (which has a record second only to the Baltimore O's in the worst record department), but there's a philosophy in baseball that says you can't fire all the players so you fire the manager. Since strategy in wrestling is so much more important than the actual "playing" (booking angles and keeping things fresh) this makes a whole bunch of sense. Anyway, the speculation at this time is premature as I haven't been able to confirm the story, but as I also said, one of the calls was from someone who should know.

Meanwhile on this week's edition of the TBS show, the didn't do a studio show, rather they filmed in Tallahassee, FL at an arena. Plenty of angles and stuff came out so let's take a quick look at them.

The garvins took on the Varsity club. Now in the past couple of weeks, Kevin Sullivan has been calling Precious by her real name, Patty. From a couple of his interviews he makes it sound like they were married at one time and Jim kept coming over for coffee or some such thing and something happened that Jim took her away from Kevin. Back to the match and the angle, Kevin at the end was finally able to successfully kidnap Precious. They were gone only a few minutes before Ron and Jim took up the chase. The camera was able to follow them back to the dressing room area to a dark room. Jim turned on the lights and Precious was huddled under a shelf of some sort screaming at him and Ron to get away from her and leave her alone. Jim kicked the camera man out so that's all we got to see, but I've got a feeling this is far from being over by far.

Also the Perverted Powers took on the Roadies in a street fight match. The end saw them triple up on Hawk and stretch him across a metal chair as Barbarian came off the top ropes on him, injuring Hawk's back. This is the second time the Perverted Powers have destroyed the Roadies on national TV and this time it was done once again to revive some interest in their feud which is still running around the country. The problem is, unless the Warriors get to strike back either on a big show or on National TV, they're going to lose even more of their credibility. Losing credibility costs money at the gate, so if they expect to make a financial comeback, they better let the Warriors gain revenge awfully quick.

Arn Anderson is quoting scripture, and I'm not sure why. Hell's taken two passages a little out of context two weeks. The first week he did it, he took John 3:16 (God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son...) and used it in reference to Dusty losing Barry as a son. At first, I thought it might have been a shot at Dusty, calling him God in an inside joke. This week he took a verse from I Corinthians 13:11, referring to Barry windham before his turn (thinking like a child) and after (when I became a man, I put away my childish things). I would suggest before he goes too far here, he look up Revelation 22:18-19.

Jim Cornette appeared on a Nashville radio talk show and correspondent Jeff Archey says he has never heard him so quick. Jeff called and praised him as the greatest manager of all time which set him off again. Jeff told me that Cornette obviously knew it was a smart fan calling and there was some inside stuff that went out over the air that no one but smarts would have understood. It was well done by both parties.

THE REAL INSIDE LANGUAGE

In response to the article written in February about "speaking the Language", I, after years (ha!) of research, have discovered the REAL, HONEST TO GOODNESS, wrestling language:

HEEL: The bottom part of a boot or shoe. BABYFACE: What newborn infants have. SQUASH: What happens when Big Dust falls on you. JOB: What these guys would be out of if they weren't wrestlers. OVER: Term commonly used in response to question "Where's the bar?" It's OVER there. SHOOT: What fathers of arena rats would like to do. HOUSE: A building wrestlers would like to live in. STICK: What David Crockett should be hit with. LIGHT: What arenas turn on so fans can see the show. BROADWAY: Where Wrestlemania V will be held. JUICE: The orange liquid Jim Crockett adds to his vodka. KAY FABE SHEETS: Favorite reading material of Skandor Akbar. TIGHT: How your wrestling attire should fit, otherwise wrestling will REALLY be exposed to the fans. BLIND REFS: your typical referee. REF BUMPS: When the ref runs into a wrestler... after all, he's blind. FALSE FINISH: What the Clash of Champions had. MARKS: Those lines wrestlers get on their bodies from weightlifting and eating too much; also what wrestlers in Germany are paid in. REBELS: Wrestlers without a cause. WORK: See JOB. PCP: The noise a cork makes coming out of a bottle (see OVER). BOUNCE: What AWA paychecks do. OTHER LITTLE KNOWN TERMS: Hyatt: a well built chest. Flair: To fall on one's face during a match. McMahon: To earn large sums of money. Luger: to pass out from lack of oxygen. Kerry: To injure one's leg. Dillon: to hide in a closet. Hayes: To steal ideas from Dusty Rhodes. Cornette: to strike at with a tennis racquet. Meltzer: Term used to get rid of unwanted Titan personnel (as in "Wanna say 'hi' to Dave meltzer?") Liz: to constantly look scared and confused. Also to fetch. Arn: to resemble another wrestler. Sting: to scream on an interview when you can't think of anything to say. Ronnie: to steal towels from hotels and throw them at fans.

-JEANETTE CRUMP-

-Fairfield, CA-

ALTERNATE PROGRAMMING

Since Pro Wrestling This Week will probably never show up on WWOR after all, wouldn't this be a good chance for groups like Continental, Memphis and the Mike Graham/Steve Keirn Florida promotion to grab up airtime on that New York Superstation? At the same time, these promotions should very seriously consider trying to get onto TV outlets in markets like Boston, and Providence (RI); I have a feeling any of them could pose stronger competition to the WWF in these parts than JCP. Perhaps Forum readers could try to get WWOR and some of these New England stations to give any or all of these groups the right sort of time slots, or must we let Titan continue to dominate this area for the foreseeable future?

-BOB SHEPHERD-

-Abington, MA-

OPEN REBUTTAL

You awarded the dipstick of the month last month to the National Enquirer. I don't think that what we did merits this "prestigious" recognition. The story that we were going to print would have given Vince McMahon and wrestling some publicity. That's what they want, whether it's good or bad; anything to keep their names in the papers. The mudslinging was not that at all. It was an attempt to give our readers what they want. Most readers are demographically in the lower IQ level, approximately the same genre of wrestling fans in general. Fans would have read the sensationalized story and remembered it for only a couple of weeks, then things would have been back to normal.

If wrestling truly wants to be big time entertainment, they have to learn to play hard ball. Your Forum and our paper are much the same in that we both give readers what they want to read. Sometimes the truth has to be stretched in both cases.

-NAME WITHHELD TO PROTECT THE WRITERS LIFE-

-Lantana, FL-

EDITOR: I have just one word to say: Bull. Readers: Tee off time for this asshole is next issue. Have at him.

NO PLACE TO HIDE

It's hard for me to grasp the vast network of correspondents that bulletins like yours and Dave Meltzer's must have. We always knew that if we ran a show in New York a week after an LA show, some of the fans there would be able to call the moves and know the finish. But now, if we go to Europe, you can still know what we're doing! I about fell over when I saw the results from Switzerland (in last issue). You may have a small circulation and we may sometimes make fun of some of the stuff printed in the sheets, but the wide spread coverage of wrestling is something we can't overlook anymore. I know when I go to the ring from now on, I'll be wondering who you have in the audience that's going to be tattling on me.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

WINDHAM TURN

Barry Windham's turn was well done, but in my opinion, as ridiculous as turning Flair into a hero, or considering Flair vs Sting to be a better match than the Fantastics vs Midnight Express on March 27. Windham is too popular, has a babyface brother, and his switch is implausible, thus getting all the fans thinking everyone can change. Steve Williams who is as imposing as he is devoid of personality, would have been the perfect fourth horseman.

-RON DOBRATZ-

-Roscoe, IL-

HATE MAIL FOR VINCE

I am sick to death of the WWF. I will never again turn my television on to watch any WWF show. I'm not going to attend live matches or have anything to do with them! After seeing their last two big shows (Survivor Series and Wrestlemania IV) I have to say I was disappointed in both. I know now that I should have picked them for worst promotion of the Year in the year end ballots. I can just see it now; everyone will say that they generate all the money. True, money is the name of the game, but if it means turning into a mental retard, a gay, or an animal trainer - then I'd go a different way. The WWF should be renamed the Wonderful World of Freaks. The gimmicks stink. Who will pay to see Outback Jack (who's only real appeal is the alligator on the back of his jacket). What about koko B Ware and Frankie; Jake and Damien; the Bulldogs and Mathilda. Since when did animals become part of pro wrestling? When I go to a card, I expect to see WRESTLING (of course with the WWF, that's asking too much) not a pet show. Then they go and try to push feuds that will never go over. Junkyard Dog and Ron Bass or Ken Patera and Dino Bravo...who will pay to see those horrible matches? Certainly not me!

-MIKE MILLER-

-QUAD CITIES (Moline, IL), USA-

Jerry Lawler is the new AWA World's Heavyweight champion as a result of his victory over Curt Hennig in Memphis on May 9. The Mid South Coliseum was packed with a near sell out to witness the title change. The day had been proclaimed Jerry Lawler Day and Lawler had promised to retire if he failed to win the belt that night. The end of the match came with Lawler slingshotting Hennig into the corner. Curt sold the move great and missed the turnbuckles, going up over the top and ramming himself into the ringpost. He fell back and Lawler cradled him for the win. They had had a phone in contest to determine the referee for the bout where the fans called special 900 numbers to choose between Larry Hennig and Jackie Fargo. When Fargo was announced as the winner, it was pretty clear that Lawler would be relieving Curt of the strap that night (Larry would never have counted his own son out). Fargo was completely neutral during the whole match and there was no controversy in the decision. This marks the first time since Stan Hansen took the belt from Rick Martel in December of 1984 that the AWA title has changed hands cleanly.

Jerry will defend the belt in the AWA territory along with filling Curt's dates in a few trips to other promotions not to mention title defenses in the Memphis circuit. In Nashville, he will defend against Bill Dundee for example. This sounds strange as Dundee and Lawler are back on good terms and Dundee was one of the first to congratulate Lawler on his victory. The way it was explained was that Dundee had wrestled Bockwinkel for the title a few years ago and Lawler made the agreement with him that if he won, Lawler would be Dundee's first title defense. Jerry is just returning the favor despite the fact that Dundee failed to win the title.

Also on the 5/9 show, Diamond and Tanaka (who are babyfaces here) pretty well turned back heel in their match against Billy Travis and Tom Brandi. The beat up the pair after the match real bad. Mike Graham and Steve Keirn were in billed as Florida State tag champs to challenge Diamond and Tanaka for the AWA tag titles which they hold, and we weren't real sure who the faces were going to be as at first, they both did semi-heel interviews. Now we know.

Lots of other stuff going on here as well. The Bruise Brothers (who are now going by their real names of Don and Don Harris) lost the CWA tag titles to the Cuban Choirboys, formerly known as the Cuban assassins. We told you in a previous issue that one of them was the assassin that worked Central States but that is not true as both of these guys are obviously Samoan. We think that one is a guy that Eddie Creetchman brought in a few years back as Bota the Witch Doctor. They are now being managed by Brother Ernest, thus the Choirboys moniker.

Here's an ad lib for the record books...Brickhouse Brown was out doing an interview while Brother Ernest was recovering in a hospital somewhere from some unknown ailment. Brickhouse came out to ask for fans to send him cards and letter when someone from the audience yelled out that Ernest had AIDS. Brickhouse played off that and now there may be a recurring angle around the AIDS thing. It sure would be a convenient way to get rid of him.

Speaking of Ernest, he's a little upset that Gary Young left his flock to go and be bodyguard to Missy Hyatt. Young had a good line about he had been hired to "watch Missy's behind...er, back" that had just about everyone I've talked to on the floor. He's followed through with the old UWF skit and the Gilbert family has adopted him.

Jeff Jarrett is feuding with Tommy and Doug Gilbert now after a skit involving Robert Fuller. Jeff hit Fuller in the head with a trashcan during a TV bout between Fuller and Lawler. Jeff was to wrestle Fuller, but due to a concussion (from the trash can) he couldn't work and Tommy took his place. Jeff and Fuller went to a no contest on the 5/9 Memphis card where Lawler won the belt.

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MAD MARC'S TWILIGHT ZONE MATCH

by Mad Marc

I've just received an advance copy of the best pro wrestling video I've ever seen and I must share it with you. It features the 1989 special LOSER LEAVE EARTH tag team contest between Fritz Von Erich and Jim Crockett Jr. vs Verne Gagne and Vince McMahon.

After eight minutes of furious name calling, the match begins and everyone begins triple teaming Vince. Special referee Gorilla Monsoon attempts to break it up but is clubbed by Jim Jr. and a lead lined tennis racquet he had concealed under his suit jacket. Monsoon falls through the ropes and lands on the announcer's table, out cold. Once again, he is senseless in front of a microphone.

Back in the ring, Vince is being double clawed by Fritz and pummeled by Jim Jr. and his lead lined racquet. Second special referee Bob Backlund grabs the racquet from Jim who is tiring. Now exhausted, Jim falls from the ring and lands on top of Gorilla (who is still unconscious and strangely silent).

Backlund begins hammering Vince with the weapon. It appears to be a shoot. Backlund swings, but Vince ducks and the racquet connects with Fritz's head! Fritz falls through the ropes and lands on Jim and the Gorilla. Backlund swings again, but years of inactivity have taken their toll and he again missed, this time catching Verne full in the face. Verne falls through the ropes and lands on the pile of bodies on the announcer's table. Ken Resnik, guest ring announcer stabs Verne in the back (with a one of a kind survival knife that is available only through the Cable Value Network at a price of only \$19.95 but that price is only good for the next fifteen minutes so get up and give us a call now while supplies last).

Vince, while clearly injured, continues to hold up one finger. Backlund swings once more, misses again and Vince catches him in a chicken wing. Backlund refuses to submit, but Arnold Skoalland runs to ringside and throws a towel into the ring. Vince grabs it and uses it to choke Bob into unconsciousness with it. Vince drops Bob over the top rope onto the pile of bodies, holds the tennis racquet aloft in a symbol of victory and begins posing. Third special referee Don Owens grabs the racquet and towel and begins chastising Vince for use of a foreign object. Vince protests his innocence, noting the union label on each but Owens shakes his head and points to the roof of the arena. Vince looks up and Owens smashes him with the racquet. Vince falls through the ropes and lands on Backlund, Verne, Fritz, Jim Jr., and Gorilla.

Don Owens declares himself the winner but this is disputed from ringside. Stanley Blackburn wants to award the match to Nick Bockwinkel. Missy Hyatt claims that Eddie Gilbert is the obvious winner and several volunteer to at least listen to her two outstanding points of view.

But attention quickly focus back in the ring where a second Don Owen has entered. "There's two Don Owens in the ring!" screams the announcer Ken Resnik through a portable PA system that is only available through the cable Value network...

Lia Miavia jumps in the ring but is immediately powerslammed by one of the Don Owens. She recovers slightly and just as we think she's identified the phoney Don Owen, she is powerslammed by the other.

Then, from nowhere appears Dump Matsumoto who destroys both Owens! For five minutes it's so bloody and ugly, I can't even describe it! She finally leaves the ring and beats up Stanley Blackburn, Missy Hyatt and all the other ringside officials including Ken Resnick. Not satisfied yet, she then goes to work on the crowd, leaving broken bodies in every seat. She works her way up to about the eighth row when she's confronted by Akira Maeda who says he's going to work her over for real. He attempts a shoot kick, but she ducks it and grabs him by the ear

drags him into the ring, grabs the ringside mike and says, "Shoot this, sucker!" The next few minutes I again will not describe but soon there is blood all over the ring and maeda may be near death. Dump appears to have broken off his left arm and is chewing on it.

Jim Ross runs out and grabs the microphone and begins to do the play by play. "It's breakin' down here and..oh no Tony! We're out of time! We gotta go!"

they begin rolling the credits. I'm still, no sure who has won or who has to leave earth or even how serious any of the injuries are. They don't even mention whether there is a sequel coming or not.

Aside from the indeterminate ending, this tape is highly recommended.

Editor's note: We sincerely hope that no one, especially those we mentioned, was offended by his unique satire. Occasionally we just have to do the off beat and Mad Marc's piece fit the bill here. Next issue, the Phantom is scheduled to appear with a column on blackballed wrestlers.

THE THIRD FALL

He called himself Terry when he first started wrestling and from the looks of things, that was about the only thing natural about him. Terry was his real name and he decided to keep and use it for his ring name. Almost everything else was changed.

His hair was long and bleached blond. He was simply hoping that no a whole lot of people would recognize him.

There was little real muscle tone. He weighed quite a bit less than he does today. He exhibited none of the ring savvy and confidence that is obvious today. In fact, though the quality of the tape is not the best in the world, you can tell it's Terry shaking...not the tape.

His first match on TV. That's what we figure we're watching. Terry is scared because the man across the ring from him is big and mean. He's not known for his light work and he has legitimately hurt some of his opponents in the past. Terry knows he's going to have to do a job in this match and surely he must be thinking of the day that he won't have to lay down for anybody.

Terry had good reason to be scared. It looks as if his opponent did get a little rough in the ring and with Terry being as green as he was starting out, Terry walked, or should I say limped, out of the ring after staring up at the ceiling of the studio for three seconds.

Terry Mecca. that's the name he started using. His opponent this night was the big Cat Ernie Ladd and the promotion is the IWA in Texas. Jack Reynolds and an unidentified cohort bring the action into our homes. The young bleached blonde had fooled a lot of people. The whole thing was a lie from the beginning.

His hair was not blonde. It was brown. He was not 18 as he had told the promoter. He was fifteen. And he was not Terry Mecca. He was Terry Gordy, a young scared jobber who was wrestling his first TV match and hoping that no one connected Terry Gordy with the wrestler Terry Mecca.

But now you can make that connection. Because now you know the out come of the third fall.

WINDY CITY WRESTLING

This is a new group for the most part, and we'll be carrying information on it from time to time as we get info. The concept here is that Chicago needs a home based promotion (other than Chicago Championship Wrestling) since the AWA pulled up stakes. This group uses some of its own talent along with bringing in some of the major independent names. I mentioned in passing last issue about a show they were having at the International Ampitheatre (the site of many wrestling cards in the past) and if anyone went to let me know. This is the results as compiled from several phone calls and a great report from Ron Dobratz.

Gary Lawler beat the Good Shepherd. Shepherd was pretty terrible. From what I gather, he's an oldie, but a baddie.

They started taping their TV show from this point on. Larry Cameron (wrestling here as Larry the Bull) beat Beach Boy Sonny Rogers. Both seemed over anxious to sell for each other, but they did have some nice moves. Rogers pinned Larry, but Butcher's foot was on the rope. Rogers got up thinking he had won when Larry hit him with a clothesline and got the official pin.

Colonel DeBeers (with Paul E Dangerously) won over Frank "the Tank" Melson via the top rope DQ. Surprisingly, Melson was in control during the short match most of the way through.

The Texas Hangmen (Killer & Psycho) & Dr. X went to a Double count out with the Windy City Dream Team (Lance & Eddie) & Stormy Apollo.

Debbie Combs then took on Candi Divine with Awesome Andi Austin at ringside to challenge the winner. The match. Candi was attempting a body slam when Andi tripped her and Combs fell on top for the pin. Debbie was awarded the WCW ladies belt, but at that point, Bob Sabre, WCW commissioner came out and reversed the referee's decision. Debbie then beat up Awesome Andi as Candi left with the belt.

Next up was a midget match.

WCW champion Steve Regal then had a babyface match with Spike Huber. Regal won the match with a powerslam, but then DeBeers and Dangerously did a run in and destroyed Regal. They hit him in the eye with the antennae on Paul's phone and as Regal lay there on the mat, Paul went right into a Danger Zone, pointing to the prone Regal and saying things like, "This is your champion, Chicago?". I am told it was very good. He ended the Zone by handing the phone back to DeBeers and saying, "Here. Go for the other eye!" As DeBeers went to the middle ropes but Sonny Rogers and the Dream Team came in to make the save.

JT Southern and Big Bubba (yep, the Memphis Tubba Bubba) went to a double DQ with Doug Sommers and Buddy Rose. The match went 18:00 and Rose and Sommers were excellent as usual.

The main event featured Nord the Barbarian vs Bruiser Brody. This match was said to be an Ampitheatre classic which covers a heck of a lot of ground. Both arrived via limo to the back of the ringside area and both approached the ring barking. It was a bloodbath with Brody becoming the fan's favorite. The Illinois State Athletic Commission just about had heart failure with these two brawling all over ringside, throwing tables, chairs, steps and everything that wasn't nailed down (and some stuff that was). At one point they brawled INTO the crowd and emptied the first four rows of ringside. The match ended in a double DQ.

A return date of July 9 is tentatively set. They are booking cards throughout the Chicagoland area as well as Rockford and Dixon here in Illinois. We are considering attending the Dixon show so we may have a report next issue (it also is a TV taping).

Sam Diserro (mad Maxx) is the owner and seems to have things heading in a positive direction. They have TV in a limited area at present, but are negotiating for bigger and better things. We'll keep you posted on progress of this group as we can. Attendance for the Chicago show was 4500 which is better than Crockett did on his last trip in. HHHHHH.

CALGARY STAMPEDE by Trent Walters

Lots of news up here from Alberta. First, Rip Rogers has left as of the end of April. He is going to work some independents and then go to Japan (Baba) in May. From June till September, he'll work Nova Scotia where he has been promised a big push on the Grand Prix circuit as he will be the lead heel with a guarantee. He hopes to return to Western Canada in October.

Next up, Stampede will have its top baby-faces Owen Hart and Jason the Terrible going to Japan in May with Chris Benoit there in June.

It is expected that several wrestlers from World Class may appear in this area as many wrestlers are worried about their jobs in Texas.

Owen Hart is saying that he does NOT think that he will go to the WWF this summer. He says that he's happy going to Japan three times a year.

Top feuds are currently Owen vs Johnny Smith, Bad Company (Bruce Hart & Brian Pillman) vs the Caribbean Connection (Jerry Morrow & Cuban Assassin - a very underrated team), Makhan Singh vs Jason, Steve DiSalvo vs a green as grass Brick Bronsky. Brick's partner Willie Seymour (who was greener than grass) left the area after allegedly raping someone in April.

Each issue I'll do a mini profile on a wrestler from this area. We'll start off with the recently departed Rip Rogers. He is one of the nicest guys to talk to along with Chris Benoit and a couple others. Rip is always interesting as he is the only wrestler to have wrestled for every promotion in North America. Benoit calls him the best heel worker on the circuit. Rip is a classy guy who is proud of the fact that he is one of the few that doesn't drink, smoke, or do dope. Next time, Jason the Terrible.

GLOBAL WRESTLING ASSOCIATION
by Jeff Bowdren

Other happenings at the April 30th TV tapings were the beginnings of a feud between Death Row and the Soul Patrol. Early in the second hour of tapings, Red Roberts (Death Row's manager) does an interview threatening all sorts of dire consequences for the Soul Patrol. Naturally the Patrol comes out and a brawl ensues, ending with Soul Man Alex Gee getting repeatedly splashed by the huge convicts and getting carried out. In the next hour, the remaining Soul Patrol (Johnny "Ram Man" Evans & TJ Jackson) took on Death Row in a wild brawl that had chairs flying and ended up in the parking lot. Fun stuff.

Another match at the tapings saw G. I. Joe Palardi (complete with camouflage make up) against that no good commie-lover Red Roberts in a lumberjack match (there were four lumberjacks surrounding the ring. Geez, did that look impressive!). The match was watchable but I had to laugh at how quickly the USA vs communist gimmick when this month's centerfold for Psychology Today, Col. Kirschner left for Billy Jack's promotion.

Notes: One thing that I can say about this promotion is that their heels act like heels. Roberts, Death Row, Brooks (hilarious insulting a crowd) and the other heels really treat the fans with contempt. At the last tapings, a kid handed Tom "the Punisher" Nash a sheet of paper for an autograph. Nash took the paper and tore it up. HA! I thought the kid was gonna cry...Great name for a jobber at the tapings. Guy comes to the ring with camouflage tights and moss hanging from his shoulders. His name: Swampman...next taping on May 28.

The UAWF is in need of action photos taken at wrestling cards. If you have something to contribute, please send it along to UAWF, Box 215, Galesburg, IL 61402. Also, the voting for the ring of Immortals will begin in about six weeks. To become part of the voice that elects these men, you need to join! A SASE gets you the info on how to become a member.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Let's update you on Harley Race first off. He's doing okay, or at least as well as can be expected. The story that we printed last issue wasn't as urgent as it sounded. I guess the actual date that Race suffered the ruptured intestine was something like four to six weeks ago. There was no cover up on the part of Titan or anything like that. When I questioned a couple people from Titan about the situation and why they hadn't told anyone, they said they had just figured that everyone knew already. As for a prognosis, it depends on who you talk to as to how he's coming along. All three people I talked with agree that he's doing okay, but then comes the discrepancies...One guy says he'll be wrestling again in a couple of weeks, one guy said he'll never wrestle again and the third said that Race wasn't going to make that kind of decision until he recovers more. Take your pick, although I think I put more faith in the third observation.

Race was also not exactly rushed to the hospital as we made it sound. He had been having some pain and he went into the hospital to have it checked out. While there, the intestine ruptured and he went to surgery a few days ahead of schedule. Approximately a foot and a half of intestine was removed (similar to what Terry Taylor had to have done after his car accident last year). I got the story from a guy at work who is originally from Kansas City and subscribes to a Kansas City newspaper. He brought in a clip of the story. They made it sound urgent although the clip did say he "was recovering from the operation".

Sometimes sitting here and listening to some of the Titan rhetoric gets pretty boring. For example, they're telling me how much money they made from Wrestlemania and how the advance on the video are better than any previous year. They tell me of the wonderous gates that Savage and DiBiase are drawing and how even the B team with Duggan and Andre on top are doing a lot better than they expected. I hear all this and then in the next breath, they tell me about cutting back on some of the non essentials.

Believe it or not, one of the non essentials is managers. Managers will no longer be showing up at house shows unless the show is being taped for TV. This will help them cut back on the managers' salaries (that ought to go over real big with the guys) plus hotel rooms and travel expenses which no doubt amount to several hundred dollars a week. The rub is that the rule doesn't apply to everybody. Elizabeth is going to continue to appear at house shows, but Virgil may be limited. Their reasoning is that Liz is a part of Randy's ring persona. Hey! If Virgil ain't a part of Ted's then I don't know who is! One good thing this does do for the fans and that's make the bookers more creative. We won't be seeing Mr. Fuji throw salt or use his cane live anymore. We won't put up with the megaphone finish from Jimmy Hart. As I said though there is some disention among the ranks as a result of this decision.

There has also been a cut back in the number of shows they run per night. Before Wrestlemania they had been doing two shows per night (two teams of wrestlers running in two different cities) with four shows on Saturday and Sundays (each team did an afternoon and an evening show). In some instances, they would even put a "C" team together for spot shows, mainly those booked for charitable organizations. They will also be running a "C" team on the weekends. The cutback on shows will be for the most part on Wednesday and Thursday nights when there won't be any shows at all. I was told this was not due to money problems, but rather, it was an attempt to give some of the guys who felt they were overworked a couple of days off with their families. They feel that this will keep wrestlers jumping to other promotions in the long

run. I'm not sure when this policy goes into effect as the next month to six weeks has a full schedule.

Ricky Steamboat is back home and tending to his gym. He doesn't plan on returning to the WWF and of course the rumor mill has him going other places, the most popular of which (rumor wise) is the AWA. Yeah, sure.

Strike Force gets booed all over the country it seems and I think that we've finally found the reason why. I can't remember who it was who first came up with the idea (let me know and I'll give you credit) but we've decided the whole reason is Jesse Ventura. Jesse, of course is a heel announcer, but he always will give proper credit to the faces when they do something impressive. Except when it comes to Chico, ah, I mean Tito. I really think his constant negative comments towards Tito carries over with the fans. What do you think?

Just took a report on tonight's card in Chicago and sorry we don't have room in the results section for it, but there were a couple of things worth mentioning. The first is Bam Bam Bigelow doing a clean job for One Man Gang in the center. Bam Bam missed a splash in the corner and fell backwards and Gang covered him for the win.

The other thing worth mentioning is the Savage-DiBiase match. It's the same ending that's going around the horn as Savage goes to the top rope to deliver the flying elbow and Virgil pushes him off so that he crotches himself on the top rope and is counted out. This sets up rematches around the circuit next time and with the proposed cut back on live shows, it allows the feud to run a lot longer than normal.

The next set of TV tapings are coming up, probably this week and should have taken place before you read this. They will be taped from Oakland and Fresno CA and we should have a report for you next issue. On the challenge show, the promised main event for this coming weekend will be Savage vs Virgil.

Looks like one of the newest names headed Titan bound is Terry Taylor. I've gotten this from a couple of very good sources and if he is, he's due to debut sometime in June. No word on whether he'll come in as a face or a heel.

I would also expect Big Bubba to make his debut

on this set of tapings.

Something that has gone unnoticed from the last Saturday Night's Main Event and was pointed out by Bob Saydlowski...when Randy Savage chased Slick back to the dressing room, Slick accidentally swung his cane into a ringsider's face and gave him a bloody nose. Forgive the pun, but I think we can smell a lawsuit.

Steve Sims, who supplied us with our World Class Parade of Champions report also reported some interesting figures from the Dallas newspaper. They list overnight ratings on sports shows in the area. The SNME from 4/30 went head to head with the World Class syndicated show. SNME drew a 6.9 rating while WCCW got only about a 3 share. Just to give you an idea here, WCCW used to consistently draw in the 12 share range. Titan appears to own Texas as well.

Speaking of the latest Saturday night's Man Event, I watched and was not overly impressed with anything. The DiBiase Muracco match was good and I'd call most of the matches on the card average. I don't have the ratings for the show nationwide and the person in Titan I asked about them didn't want to talk about it. That usually means they didn't do well. Funny thing about the Titan PR people...if they do well on a broadcast, they've got the numbers the next day and down to the n-th degree. If they didn't do well, it takes weeks (or in other words till you've forgotten about the show) to get the numbers.

Here in the Midwest, they are running a promotion in conjunction with Jay's Potato Chips where each bag of chips included a WWF sticker. With two proofs of purchase, you can join their fan club for only \$6.95 (instead of the usual \$9.95) and there's another deal where you can get a championship belt. Now don't go getting all excited over that prospect. All it is is their newest tee shirt that has a belt printed on it around the waist (sort of like those tee shirts the Fantastics used to wear with the tuxedo printed on them).

And finally, watch for the courtship of Miss Elizabeth coming to a TV station near you. If they do end up marrying Randy & Liz on TV, I hope they learned something from the disastrous Uncle Elmer wedding a few years back.

PULSE ON PORTLAND

by Greg Anderson

Coco Samoa is now among those who have left Don Owen to work for Billy Jack's new OWF promotion as he did not show up for his street fight match against Al Madril on 4/23. Scott Peterson took Coco's place and after a great but short brawl, Grappler interfered and held Scott as Madril whipped him with a belt. Steve Dahl ran in for a save but he was whipped too. All four men brawled and several other wrestlers had to come in to break it up. This set up a tag bout for the following week.

Roddy Piper's appearance on the 4/30 Portland show lived up to expectations as Mike Golden kept trying to goad him into signing a match. Piper resisted saying he was too light at 200 pounds to compete and planned on staying retired. Golden spit on Piper and left. In another TV interview, Golden brought out a "wrestling license application" and ordered Piper to sign it. Roddy tore up the application and tossed it in Mike's face. Golden then threatened to beat Piper right there. Piper said, "Are you finished?" and then decked Golden. Grappler then ran up and told Piper that he was going to show him what the northwest was all about and began loading his boot. Assassin then ran up with a coal miner's glove to make the sides even. Piper then clobbered Golden and all four of them brawled, but a TV cord was disconnected in the melee, and the picture went black (how convenient). Thus ended Piper's appearance. He hinted that he might be back on 5/7 (the OWF was to debut that night) making fans think he might wrestle. Well, Piper did not show, but the trick worked as there was a packed house for the Extraveganza.

We finally saw the return of Buddy Rose on the big show. Ladies and Gentlemen, Rose weighed 400 pounds if he weighs an ounce. I mean, he and Adrian Adonis have been training together at Dunkin' Donuts! He faced TV champ Assassin in a non title match. By the way, the TV title is now a belt rather than a trophy. After a short and lackluster battle, ref Barr took a bump and Rose tied Assassin up in the ropes and pulled a plastic bag out of his trunks. He put it over Assassin's head and tied it off at the throat. A mark at ringside then went berserk and jumped over the guardrail but was quickly tackled by security. Just when it looked like Sierra would suffocate, Dahl and Peterson ran in for the save. A title bout between Assassin and Rose was signed for 5/14.

The opening tag match was Steve Austin (no, he's not Lee Majors...this is a newcomer who debuted two weeks back) and Moondog Moretti against Art Barr and Billy Two Eagles. The match opened with a great high spot and Austin surprised me as he had not shown much in his first couple Portland bouts. The pace was consistent throughout with a few brief rest periods. The faces won the first fall and time ran out in the second.

This promotion is hyping the fact that they are the "action" circuit in deference to Hayne's big man emphasis.

Matt Borne had a bounty match (Grappler's putting up the money) against a Japanese wrestler called Shogun. The match was good but too short and was won by Borne when Grappler's attempted interference backfires and Matt took Shogun down with a reverse cradle for the pinfall. Grappler attacked Borne and as Shogun was about to use his nunchucks, Tom Zenk who had earlier pinned C.W. Bergstrom, ran in for the save. A grappler Borne grudge bout was set up for 5/14.

Jesse Barr, who is now being billed as Jimmy Jack Funk, took on Al Madril. After a poor match, Sandy was bumped and Jesse tried to help his dad. Madril grabbed Jesse's rope and clobbered him from behind with the cowbell. He hit him a couple of more times and then Jesse regained possession of the rope and almost tossed his dad to the mat, when the elder Barr tried to take it away.

In the dark main event, Zenk beat Grappler via DQ in a title match and Art Crews and Cowboy Lang drew with Two Eagles and Coconut Willie in a mixed match. According to the local newspaper, Dahl & Peterson beat Golden & Avalanche in a cage match with no mention of a title change.

The bout had been billed as a title match. We'll know for sure next issue if the title changed hands. Also, we'll have our first reports on the first OWF TV shows.

Curt Hennig was a no show on 5/7 but was still billed for the Seattle card the following night. It could be the Oregon commission would not allow Curt to work with his recent injuries..

*****WORLD CLASS*****

The 5th annual Memorial Parade of Champions is history (it's still hard to believe that David died five years ago) as the card was held on May 8 at Texas Stadium. The attendance was in the 5000-5500 range so needless to say, World Class officials were disappointed (the stadium holds in excess of 40,000).

Kerry Von Erich regained the Worth-Las title by defeating Iceman King Parsons in 11:29 in a match that saw both missing several moves. The pin came following an attempted body slam by Parsons which Kerry turned into an inside cradle.

The triple tower of doom was a bit confusing. The fans who understood the rules and concept enjoyed it, but unfortunately, there weren't many of those fans in attendance. I saw a still photo of the conglomeration (excuse me...they called it the triple dome of terror, not tower of doom). The bottom ring looked normal with a mesh cage around it. It was probably a 20 x 20 ring. The ring on top of it looked to be a bit smaller and around it was the Calgary cage that they used at Wrestlemania II. The top ring looked smaller yet with more mesh for a cage. Before the match, each of the 17 participants drew a fan's number from the ticket stubs. The wrestler who reached the top cage first was to be declared the winner and the fan whose ticket was drawn would also win some prizes. The thing went about 20 minutes and somehow, they came up with three winners: Steve Casey, Jason Sterling, and John Tatum. No, I don't know how, but from the three reports I got one said it was an A match, another a C and the third graded it a D-.

Bruiser Brody returned for the card as well as he teamed with Kevin Von Erich to take on Buddy Roberts and a mystery partner. All three of the people who sent reports swear that the mystery partner was Pro Wrestling This Week's Joe Pedicino.

In the on going "who's side will Terry Gordy take?" saga, we thought we might see the end of things, but we're only seeing the beginning. Gordy took on former partner Michael Hayes in what was agreed upon being a great match. It went 6:11 and ended with Buddy Roberts hitting Michael in the face with powder. Gordy pinned Hayes and Roberts brought in some scissors to cut Hayes' hair. Gordy refused to do that. There was an altercation and Terry ended up fighting with Angel of Death and then Buddy and somehow, Buddy ended up getting some of his hair cut. Iceman, Angel, and Buddy then ganged up on Gordy until the Simpsons came in to make the save. So it looks like Hayes and Gordy will be back together again and feuding with Ice, Angel, and Buddy.

Shawn Simpson got hurt (not sure if legit) in the tower match and so he was replaced in the tag match to unify the tag titles between the Simpsons and Tatum/Victory by Gordy. The heels won the match via count out. Buddy once again tried to attack Terry. The magic Freebird creme (which results in permanent hair loss) was thrown at Gordy but he ducked and Steve Simpson caught it in the eyes.

The angles continue to be well done, but for some reason, they just can't draw. I don't know whether the local economy has anything to do with it or not, but the 5500 fans at Texas stadium has to be an embarrassment of sorts when for the first Parade, they drew well over the 30,00 mark. Strange when the production and angles improve so much yet gates don't. It makes me wonder if there is any hope at all for this promotion. Let's hope there is.

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RESULTS FROM ALL OVER
(now this is more like it!)

4-29 NORFOLK, VA (NWA) - courtesy of Marty Hammond...Jive Tones beat Kendall Windham/Italian Stallion (B)...Green Machine (Bugsy McGraw) over Gene Ligon (Z)...Steve Williams defeated Larry Zbyszko (C)...Mike Rotundo over Ricky Santana (B)...Garvins went DDO with Steiner/Sullivan (D+)...Flair/Anderson beat Luger/Sting (A)...Midnight Rider over Tully Blanchard (D)...NOTES: Attendance 3000 +...vocal crowd...lots of horsemen fans...Zbyszko-Doc match was not for western states title...Windham clocked Sting to give Flai and Arn the victory...Midnight Rider was unmasked, but no ref...that was a Texas barbed wire match.

4-30 KANSAS CITY (WWA) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert...Steve Cox beat Russell Sapp...Curtis Hughes drew Joe Lightfoot...Bob Brown/Masa Chono over Steve Ray/Vinnie Valentino...Ken Timbs over T. C. Carter...Dave Peterson beat Bob Brown via DQ...Mike George beat Chris Adams by DQ...NOTES: attendance: 364...George interfered and knocked out Peterson and Brown pinned Dasve...Chris Adams came out and explained to the referee what had happened and the ref reversed the decision...Brown then had words with Adams and insulted the entire World Class promotion which means they will be working with this group from now on...George and Adams real brutal and Chris ended up DQ'd for throwing George over top ropes..

4-30 DETROIT (NWA) - courtesy of Beth Sackett...Ivan Koloff beat Jimmy Valiant...Shepherders over lightening Express...Larry Zbyszko over Ron Simmons...Garvins went DCOR with Steiner/Sullivan...Mike Rotundo drew Steve Williams...Sting beat Flair by DQ...Warriors beat Barbarian/Warlord.

4-30 COLLINGSWOOD, NJ (IND) - courtesy of Jim Pietrowski...Mark Addams beat Super Destroyer (D+)...Boy Gone Bad over Sonny Boy Austin (C+)...Chief Thunder Mountain pinned Big Paul Starr (F)...Misty Blue over Linda Dallas (C+)...Abdullah the butcher went DDO with Johnny Rodz (B+)...Sgt. Slaughter beat Russian assassin (C-)...NOTES: Attendance 500...Starr-Chief match, both guys super green and 5th row could hear them calling spots...Linda Dallas worked hard and carried Misty...Abby and Rodz both juiced like crazy...Larry Sharpe at ringside with Abby...Slaughter looked terrible...Russian Assassin was probably Don Kernodle.

5-6 PITTSBURGH (NWA) - courtesy of Jeff Lynch...Sheeps beaat Johnny Ace/Mighty Wilbur...Sting pinned Murdoch...Windham and Arn over Lightening Express...Fantastics beat Midnight Express...Nikita went DCOR with Al Perez...Rhodes pinned Blanchard...Steve Williams beat Ric Flair via DQ...Road Warriors over Powers...NOTES: Attendance 6-7000...best card Jeff has seen the NWA do here in Pittsburgh...first two matches were good with touches of comedy...Nikita and Perez did a nice job of building their match to a logical finish...Warriors won an elimination cage bout when Hawk and Warlord went out door together and Animal finished off Barbie...Dusty and Tully used cowbell, but no blood...Fantastics were to give ten lashes to Express after match and they got Lane, but Cornette and racquet made save for Eaton and himself....Flair-Doc good with heat...Flair DQ'd for throwing Doc over toprope.

5-7 CHICAGO (IND-Windy City Wrestling) - courtesy of Mandy Evans...Stormy Apollo over Ray Mantell (12:00)...Frank the Tank beat American Ninja (7:12)...Texas Hangmen beat Beach Boys (10:58)...Awesome Ondi Austin pinned the Dazzler (11:12)...Steve regal defeated Dr. X (22:37)...Terminators went DDO Windy City Dream Team (18:20)...NOTES: Attendance 400...Crowd was favoring the heels tonight no matter what the faces

did to get over...matches held in St. Florian High School gym...
good vocal crowd.

5-7 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma...Zbyszko pinned Ace...
Murdoch over Wilbur...Windham pinned Horner...Fantastics beat Midnight
Express...Road Warriors pinned Sheeps...Nikita DCOR Al Perez...Dusty/
Doc won over Arn/Tully by DQ...Flair pinned Sting...NOTES: Attendance
5000...Crowd chanted "Bruno" at Larry...him arguing with ref Dick Woerle
brought back a lot of memories...After Murdoch's match he was arguing
with Woerle and Wilbur snuck up behind him and held him while Woerle
punched Murdoch four times...nice touch...Windham cursed crowd on house
mike...Barry used a loaded glove for the win...Cornette had plenty of
jokes about the Orioles...Eaton got strapped here and lane and Cornette
escaped...a fan through a cup of beer at Cornette, he ducked and it
hit ref Woerle flush in face...fan got free room and board for the night
at local precinct house...Rip Morgan flagged a sheep by mistake resulting
in the pin for Warriors...Barry did a run in to hit Sting with loaded
glove (blind ref) to set up pin...Barry had also interfered in tag match
before...he helped Tully and Arn rearrange Dusty's face before Doc came
back with a chair for save.

5-7 BOSTON (WWF) - courtesy of John McAdam...Casey pinned Iron Mike
(D)...Jake DDT'd Greg Valentine (C+)...Rougeaus pinned Bees (D+)...
Frenchie Martin beat Jerry Allen (F)...Pete Dougherty over SD Jones
(Z)...Rude pinned Koko (F)...Andre over Duggan by COR (F)...Bret Hart
drew Bad News Brown (B)...Demolition over Strike Force (B)...Beefcake
went DDQ with Honky Tonk Man...NOTES: Attendance 14,600...Jake caught
Valentine with DDT and got clean pin...Rougeaus turned heel in their
match...Frenchie was sub for Bravo...Koko didn't work during his match...
Andre Duggan brawling on floor, Andre got 2 x 4 and gave him a tap
that wouldn't have killed a mosquito on his back...Jim went down, Andre
climbed back in ring...Bret-Brown went to a 20:00 draw in 18:01...Bret
got the best response of the night...Fuji used salt in the eyes of SF...
Jimmy Hart played peggy Sue and was stripped to his undies.

5-8 ROANOKE, VA (NWA) - courtesy of Larry Lovell...Sheeps beat Buggy/Ace...
Jim Garvin pinned Steiner...Ron Garvin beat Larry Zbyszko by DQ...Al
Perez pinned Santana...Barry over Stallion...Fantastics over Midnight
Express via DQ...Doc pinned Sullivan...Powers/Ivan over Roadies/Nikita
by DQ...Flair pinned Sting...NOTES: Attendance 3000...Flair got a clean
pin!!!!Hawk clotheslined ref for DQ...Cornette's racquet got his team
DQ'd...Barry drawing a lot of heat.

5-8 DALLAS (WCCW) - courtesy of Steve Sims...Jason Sterling/Missing
Link beat Vince Apollo/Angel of Death (C)...Mike George beat Jeff Raitz
(C)...Scott Casey over Eric Embry (C)...Bill Irwin beat Black Bart by
DQ (C-)...Terry Gordy over Michael Hayes (A)...Terry Taylor pinned Chris
Adams (A+)...Casey, Sterling, & Tatum won Tower of Doom Cage battle
royal (A)...Kevin VE & Brody beat Roberts/Mystery Partner (Joe Pedicino?)
(B-)...Tatum/Vicotry over Steve Simpson/Gordy (B)...Kerry beat Iceman
(C-)...NOTES: see world class report.

5-13 HOUSTON (NWA) - courtesy of Travis Brautigam...Larry Z beat Rudy
Gonzales...Nikita beat Ivan (C+)...Barry beat Midnight Rider (Italian
Stallion)...Perez DCOR Luger (D-)...Doc beat Arn (B-)...Roadies beat
Powers (B)...Nikita beat Tully (C-)...Windham beat Nikita (B)...Flair
beat Sting in a cage (A)...NOTES: Flair had feet on ropes for win...
Perez-Lex went 15:05 of disappointing restholds...Warriors-pain missed
a few moves but worked well for big guys...JJ held Nikitas foot to
help Barry win title.

Before getting to the trivia part of the bulletin, there is some credit waiting to be given to a reader. Last issue's welcome where we talked about a reader turning heel and all the babyface readers coming to my rescue was based on a letter received from Bill Hanrahan of Silver Spring, MD. I did not print the letter when I received it as I wanted to put the whole incident behind us. Since, the letter was pitched, but the idea remained with me. I used the foundation of that letter to write the welcome, but I did not remember who to credit with the idea. We now extend our gratitude to Bill for his letter and off the wall humor along with our apologies for not giving credit where credit was due. Thanks Bill, and meanwhile, for my plagiarism, I hereby award myself the Joseph A. Biden Award for journalistic copyright infringement.

Last issue's trivia question required just a bit of setting up. Roddy Piper once busted a beer bottle on his forehead during an interview segment to prove how tough he was (pretty gross stuff...he started bleeding immediately). This was in Calgary and he and his partner were feuding with the Shepherders. Who was Roddy's partner? The answer is Rick Martel. This issue's question is this: What wrestler appears in the music video "Just a Gigolo/Life Goes On Without Me" by David Lee Roth? Answer next time.

The first edition of the UAWF magazine was mailed out last week just six weeks behind schedule. We were very pleased with the cover and the interior came out a little better than I expected as well. Next issue should be out by the second week of July and we will have full convention details including the cost, in that issue. We will break the news to UAWF members first, then to the rest of the public in the Forum. For information regarding the UAWF, write to Box 215, Galesburg, IL 61402 and enclose a SASE. Anyone interested in display advertising should do the same.

I just saw a tape of the show that Jeff Siegel put together with Sharkey's guys where I got to manage Larry Cameron. Funny how things get distorted when you're involved. I thought that I had done a pretty decent job, but after watching it and judging it from a neutral seat, I did less than average. I also remembered Ricky Rice being great and after watching the tape, I'd now say he was average. Larry was as good as I remembered him and Johnny Love was better. Oh, by the way, I promised to report on the punch I took...it missed me by a mile.

A quick correction from last issue. I reported that Missy Hyatt had come out on the Continental set with a black eye blaming the Dirty White Boy for it. Actually it was DWB's valet Mystic. If you think my typing is bad, you should see my speedwriting! "Mst" looked enough like Missy for me to translate it that way. Sorry.

Roddy Piper's movie "Hell comes to Frogtown" is due for release on video cassette on June 21. Here's what the promo says that I got in the mail: "Trapped in a nuclear wasteland, surrounded by mutants. Sam Hell has a mission...to fertilize as many women as possible. It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it. Sam Hell (Roddy Piper) is a muscle bound combination of wise-guy cool and deadly force. It's up to Hell and the armed and dangerous beauty Spangle (Sandahl Bergman) to brave the desert wasteland. Their mission: to perpetuate the race by impregnating as many fertile women as possible. Humanity's last hope for survival lies in the abilities of a beauty and a beast! But in their way stand hundreds of miles of desert, hordes of angry frog mutants and the supreme frog mutant himself - Commander Toty - the ambassador of death!" I guess I'd better go stand in line to reserve my copy. I wonder why it was never in theatres?

Next issue I plan to fit in the comedy piece that we cut last time. I had a David Letterman type top ten of "Things to do with an AWA check".

It should be fun as I revised it a bit.

Chicago readers (or for that matter anyone interested): I think that we will be going to Dixon for the Windy City show on the 22nd. Anyone interested in getting together at the matches, let me know. We'll work out something.

READER REQUEST: Anyone wishing to correspond and/or trade tapes, please contact JIM COOK, Box 245, Mount Auburn, IL 62547. He has several Japan tapes and other miscellaneous ones. He's also interested in any info about Cowboy Bob Ellis.

Please pardon the typewriter. Ever since I gave it that drink of Pepsi, there's been certain keys that won't work sometimes. The apostrophe (like in the last line) comes out as two parallel lines and the "T" key sometimes doesn't print at all. You'll also notice that sometimes we forget to capitalize letters. The shift key doesn't work too good either. We're looking at new typewriters, but right now we can't afford what we need. Bear with us for about three months with the lines, the missed t's, and the non capitalized letters and we should be in a position to improve.

Jeff Archey tells us about a crackdown on prostitution in Nashville and how a police woman dressed as a hooker was wired for sound. She would stand on a street corner and wait for offeres, then tell the potential customer to meet her someplace where the vice squad would be waiting. One of those arrested was a former wrestler (well, I guess he still does sometimes). We won't hold that against him though. But what was a shocker was that when Jeff was going through the paper to find his own wedding announcement, there was this wrestler's wedding announcement who had just been nabbed for soliciting a prostitute. I guess we should wish the wrestler and his new wife luck...they may need it.

Looks like we're going to be a day late again. We tried. It's 3:15 am Monday right now. Sorry. Things just got real busy at deadline this time. We'll do better next time, so until then, see you all in about two weeks.

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Despite nasty rumors of us stepping out of the dark ages and into the computer age, we are continuing our old fashioned way of telling how current your subscription is. If your mailing label is printed in black ink, it means your subscription is current. Relax. If your mailing label is printed in green ink, that means this is your next to last issue. Start worrying. If it's printed in red ink, that means this is your last issue unless you renew. Panic and send money. See y'all!!